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Wednesday, September 23, 1998

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### SIDELINES

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■ Catch up on your favorite soaps. Also, read your horoscope and find out what's in store for you! Page 6.

■ Looking for a place to hangout? Checkout our comprehensive club list and upcoming shows. This week's pick is Bar Nashville. Page 7.

#### **Upcoming FLASH! articles**

- Nashville's own The Diner Junkies. Often scoffed at by their own hometown, the Junkies have just released a new album and are embarking on a Fall/Winter tour that gets started at Riverfront Park in Music City, complete with Harley's and Playmates.
- Hangin' out with the most visible member of the U.S. National Soccer team Alexi Lalas. Not just an athlete, Lalas has just released his third album via CMC International/BMG.

If you have any stories you would like to see in a future issue of FLASH!, please call 898-2917. We'd love to hear about your thoughts and ideas.

#### Quote of the week

# "Did he try hitting on you?"

A question posed by Salma Hayek to Jay Leno while a guest on The Tonight Show. Hayak was promoting her new movie, "Studio 54," when Leno mentioned he had met Andy Warhol there back in the '70s while performing standup comedy routines in New York City.

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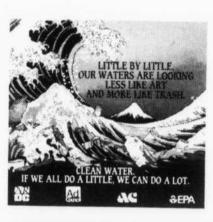
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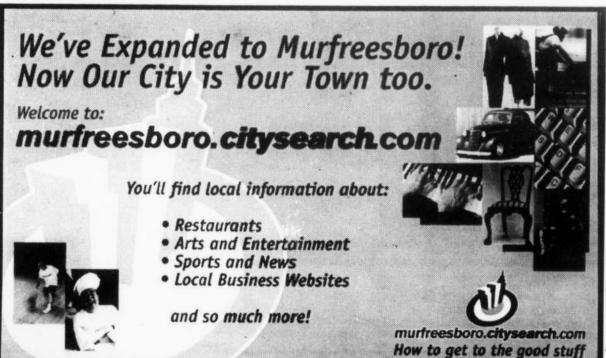
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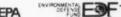
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# 'Simon Birch', a movie for the ages

# Despite its 'Gump' comparisons, Birch is solid story in its own right

Jared Wilson Movie Editor

Let me begin by simply saying that "Simon Birch" is one of the finest films I have ever seen. And I understand that, in the words of "Pulp Fiction' character Vincent Vega, "That's a bold statement."

I had no idea that what appeared to be a period study of adolescence would move me so. I was ill prepared.

Let me progress by saying that "Simon Birch" is not repeat, not - "Forrest Gump." Despite the nasty rumors, and the early dismissals claiming "rehash," the two films have minimal similarities.

They both concern a different sort of protagonist-both are outcasts. So, in that sense, "Birch" owes as much to "Gump' as "Sling Blade," "Powder," and an innumerable list of movies.

To avoid "Birch" based on its kinship to "Gump" is a huge mistake. You might as well write off "Platoon" (the 1986 Best Picture winner), because "Apocalypse Now" covered Vietnam.

"Birch" and "Gump" also share portrayals of societal injustices. But while "Gump" may

have been a thinly-veiled child actors around. socio-political commentary, "Birch" is concerned more with the small community as a reflection of society at large.

The greatest distinction between the two films is this: "Gump', despite its treatment of turbulent times, was a fantasy, and "Birch" is not.

There are cartoonish moments in the film reminiscent of Barbara Robinson's children's book "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," but it is based on a very adult book - John Irving's "A Prayer for Owen Meany."

However, it strays from Irving's novel greatly and establishes its own sparkling

So let me proceed by saying that if you see one movie this month, you must see "Simon Birch," the story of a dwarf child growing up in 1950s New Hampshire.

Birch, portrayed by Ian Michael Smith, is the town's misfit, cast off even by his embarrassed parents. He finds a soul-mate in his best friend Joe, played by Joseph Mazzello, a boy raised by his single mother (Ashley Judd) and his stern grandmother.

The performances in "Birch" are top notch. In Smith and Mazzello, director Mark Steven Johnson has found two of the best

It would be a shame if Smith's stature lost him future roles. He's a powerhouse of a little performer, tackling his part with sincere bravado.

Mazzello is equally brilliant. Oliver Platt, a character actor whose supporting roles have made several mediocre films watchable, appears somewhat relieved to be a part of a great

His turn as the kind father figure is warm and endearing but manages to steer clear of sentimental sappiness.

Jim Carrey, as the adult Joe, has little more than a cameo, but book ends the film nicely.

I am appalled that critics close to home "The Nashville and beyond "Entertainment Weekly" have panned this film, labeling it sappy, concocted, and even mean-

I am equally astounded, however, that reviewers I normally find the critical opposite of myself have praised the film. Gene Siskel gave "Birch" an "A+"! (I usually side with his portly

But don't take Siskel's word for it. Take mine. "Simon Birch" is as fine a movie as you will see

My grade: A.



Photo credit: Alan Markfield

Ashley Judd (above with Ian Michael Smith) stars as Rebecca, one of the few people in Simon Birch's (Smith) life who befriends the young boy.

## Smart move back to tv



Photo Credit: Disney/Jeff Katz

Tahj Mowry, best known for his role on "The Cosby Show," returns to television this fall on the Walt Disney Television produced "Smart Guy," airing Sunday's at 7:30 p.m. on The WB.

# Japanese filmmaker leaves behind legacy with American colleagues

**Jared Wilson** Movie Editor

The world lost one of the greatest directors of all time on Sept. 6. Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa died of a stroke at age 88. Internationally regarded as a master of motion pictures, Kurosawa's films transcended the genres he presented them in. His work has inspired our contemporary greats; many of them regard Kurosawa a genius. He has influenced the work of directors like Martin Scorsese, George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola. Lucas, whose "Star Wars" trilogy was, in part, inspired by Kurosawa's "The Hidden Fortress," is reported as saying, "He was one of the true masters

If you are unfamiliar with Mr. Kurosawa's work, introduce yourself with a few of these gems:

"Yojimbo." This comic samurai story inspired Sergio Leone's "spaghetti Westerns" with Clint Eastwood. Toshiro Mifune portrays the mysterious stranger who pits two feuding gangs against each other. Yojimbo" is witty and expertly

"Ran." One of the top five films of the 1980s, "Ran" is Kurosawa's re-telling of Shakespeare's "King Lear." "Ran" is mesmerizing viewing, vivid in color and composition. It is both lavish spectacle and breathtaking epic. This is director's last great

"Rashomon." Kurosawa's finest achievement. "Rashomon" recalls, through different characters, the violent events that took place in a forest. The film is a mystery that, upon reflection, involves the viewer in its intricately knit web. It is more a study of the elusive nature of truth than the subjectivity of it. "Rashomon" is simple on the surface but startlingly complex underneath. It is definitely one of cinema's treasures.

We will certainly miss Akira Kurosawa, an important pioneer in the arts, and arguably international filmdom's greatest director. If you are at all inclined, it will definitely be worth your while to rent one of his masterpieces.



NASHVILLE-Slowly surely, America is coming to realize that Gary Chapman is just a regular guy.

"I'm not sure what a regular guy really is," Chapman ponders "Normal is such a relative term. My life may not be regular to some people, just because of the stuff I do."

OK, so strip away his prime time talk show, his numerous hit records, his famous wife and, of course, his helicopter, and you begin to experience the "real" Chapman - a family man, a

chapman — a family man, a serious man and one who is driven by, of all things, laughter.

For the past two years, Chapman has been the host of cable television's "Prime Time Country," a music-based talk

Thursday at 8 p.m. on TNN.

Since Chapman took over the show, which once appealed for one reason or another to an older audience, "Prime Time Country" has taken on a much broader demographic group. So be it as it may, much of the show's success rightfully should be attributed to Chapman's undenying appeal to a

wide audience.
"I think what people seem to latch onto is the fact that I am real," Chapman said, "and that's tough to do in front of a camera. Everybody has a picture that they think is goofy, but their family and friends say, 'Ough, that's great. That's you.' Well, I'm

not afraid to be that person.

"It's been a process to get to that point, but right now there's literally nothing that can happen

on a nightly basis in front of that

camera that bothers me."
In fact, some of Chapman's antics have become legend. There's the time he let Deana Carter shave his legs when she appeared on his show in support of her album "Did I Shave My Legs For This?" and just a few weeks ago, he allowed JoDee Messina to paint his toe nails

The show, however, isn't driven by comedy alone - although it did lead to Chapman being named Comedian of the Year at the 1998 TNN Music City News Country Awards. Aside from comedy skits and live performances, Chapman has developed a unique way of making anyone who appears on the show - from Little Jimmy

Dickens to Garth Brooks to the

over-zealous boxing promoter
Don King — feel at home.

"What I want is to have a show
that is not driven by the coast,
the left one or the right one,"
Chapman explains. "Most network television is conceived in or driven by a New York or L.A. mentality, and the majority of us don't live there. I want our show to be something that somebody in the middle of Kansas can turn on and go, 'I know this guy. This is who I am.' For me to try and do anything else wouldn't be real."

Though not directly, Chapman has been preparing for his time as a talk show host since birth. Born in Waurika, Okla., and raised in DeLeon, Texas, Chapman learned early on that laughter can go a long way.

Bent on entertaining, Chapman set out for Nashville after graduating from high school. He first joined the gospel group The Rambos and began working as a songwriter. His songwriting working as ventures allowed him to meet his wife Amy Grant, who recorded the Chapman-penned "Father's Eyes" in 1979. Grant and Chapman eventually married in 1982. The couple now have three children: Matt, 10, Millie, 8 and Sarah, 5.

Despite the fact that Chapman is kin to laughter, he is a man of intense seriousness as well. Whether it's his gracious southern roots or his religious upbringing (his father is a minister), Chapman has refrained — unlike many talk show hosts - from taking advantage of the fodder with President Bill Clinton.

"I'm just so gosh darn tired of driving my children to school in the morning and having to try and explain the news to them," Chapman said. "If anybody listens to my songs or sits down and talks to me about some heavy situation, be it personal political or other wise, I'm a pretty serious guy. But, I dance through life with a great deal of humor, and that's

what gets me from moment to moment.'

For the moment, Chapman is pretty happy with where he's at in his personal life and with his career. Currently, "Prime Time Country" is enjoying the best television ratings it's ever gotten - in fact, on a market to market basis, it's outdoing most of the late night talk shows, especially in the south.

Could an Emmy Award nomination be looming in Chapman's future?

I don't think that's out of the realm of possibilty, at all, Chapman said. "But, I don't think about that on a daily basis. I tend to focus on what's in front of me directly in front of me - because that's what got me where I am and that's what's going to take me where I'm going to go. But at the same time, I don't think it's entirely impossible. It's just not something I consciously strive toward."

So, as the new television season begins to unfold, Chapman and his new sidekick Nan Sumrall are once again set to venture into the rating wars of prime time television luckily for them it's from the viewer-freindly confines behind the Grand Ole Opry in Studio A.







Tim McGraw, Martina McBride and Chapman



Sumrall has been with the show for two months.

#### **Behind the scenes**

#### of 'Prime Time Country'

By Keith Ryan Cartwright

n television, the show has an almost homey feel to it. Whether you're relaxing on your living room couch or lying in your bed watching television, Gary Chapman always seems to come off as the neighbor down the street. The guy who stops long enough to say, "hi;" while walking his dog.

It's not as if viewers feel overly close to Chapman and his cohorts, but there is an underlying sense of friendship.

So it seemed only natural to take a closer in-person look at the making of "Prime Time Country.

After all, through the magic of editing, things aren't always what they seem on television.

Four nights a week - Monday through Thursday (8 p.m.

appears in Chapman households across the country via cable TV's TNN, The Nashville Network.

Each and every night, Chapman comes through with an unyielding sense of humor, but unlike the cue card humor of David Letterman, Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien, there appears to be something more unrepressable about Chapman's sense of style.

"I like to shoot from the hip," Chapman said. "Anything remotely cute or funny you might hear me say came into my mind the millisecond before I said it."

Fortunately for myself, I have a bit of past experiences to base my views on. Having been to several tapings of "The Tonight Show" and the defunct "Arsenio Hall Show," let me be the first to tell you about the forced appeal of excitement.

When attending both Leno and Hall's shows, producers didn't just

urge an overt amount of excitement—they expected it. In fact, what they expected was a standing ovation when star hosts were introduced.

Apparently, they forgot that the stars of the show are guests that stop by to promote their current project. It seems ludicrous to think that the interviewer would be a bigger draw than the guests themselves (Does anyone care about Barbara Walters and her self-gloating, pretentious attitude?).

As for Chapman, he not only allows but also encourages his guests to be

themselves. His interaction with them is a spontaneous conversation which Chapman, when appropriate, may throw in a comedic

"I'm not reading from a cue card, at all," Chapman said. "If you watch some of the other shows, you know darn well they're working to get to that punch line.'

Even outside of the studio, "Prime Time Country" has a much better atmosphere than some of its counterparts.

Like all shows that are taped in front of a live audience, "Prime Time Country" does give away more tickets than seats to ensure the seats will be filled. However, they seat fans on a first come, first serve basis.

The concept seems only natural, but it's not always the case.

With Leno, the cattle call is so large, one must first arrive at NBC studios about 7 a.m. in order to even get a ticket. Then you must return at 3 p.m. if you want any chance at all of getting inside. After standing in line until 4:30 p.m. ushers begin shuttling in the audience for the 5 p.m. taping. Talk about making a day of it.

As sad as it may seem, Leno's a lot less complicated than Hall was. Upon arriving for a taping of Hall's show, staff workers would situate potential -note: potential audience members into several lines depending on gender, age, number of people in your group and -- of all things - ethnicity.

Oh yeah, Hall worked hard to achieve just the right diversity. He wanted to capture the right mixture on tape for the show depending on who his guests were. Case in point, I did everything I had to in order to see a taping with Denzel Washington.

Did I get in? Nope!

Instead I was given a guaranteed pass for the next day's show featuring -- of all people --Steven Segal. Oh boy, the action hero from movies that are so horrendously horrible, no one can even remember any of the titles (Does "Under Siege" mean a thing to anyone? That's about how excited I

So there you have it. A few things you wouldn't have already known about the wonderful world of television. Now that you're ready for an experience all your own, all you need to do is call (615)457-PTC4 to reserve your very own tickets. "Prime Time Country" tapes at 5 p.m. in Studio A located behind the Grand Ole Opry.

> **Prime Time Country Free Tickets** (615)457-PTC4

#### Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black Tribune Media Services

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may feel like you're losing control. That's just the sucking sound the sun makes when it goes into Libra. For the next 30 days, your lesson is in following, rather than leading. It'll be rebuively easy when you're

following a friend vocatrust

Taurus (April 20 day 20) Be careful. Paperwork must be filled out absolutely perfectly. There's zero tolerance for errors. Hassle out a new agreement. It'll be easier to reach a compromise, but don't give up something important. Shop for damaged items.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Your household is full of interesting conversations. You get old issues resolved, and romance is the natural result. You'll be getting into the working part of the project. You won't have much time to talk. A partner gives sometimes unwanted advice.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Learn something you need to resolve a family matter, by asking close relatives for advice. You'll be more interested in your personal situation. A loved one needs all your attention. It'll be a joy and delight to provide that. The work pace increases.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) You should remember what you learn, so study material will be useful. You may have to apply it soon, to get what you want in a domestic dispute. Hurt feelings will have healed, for the most part, and you'll all be on to fun and games.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're lucky in games on, even games of chance. You learn more ways to make and save money. This is information you can put to work right away. Entertain at home. Everyone wants to come to your house, even some people you haven't invited. No problem.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You're looking good, but you're under pressure. Finish up old business quickly. You have more important things to do. You could miss an opportunity to make more money, but it looks like another one will be easier to catch. You're a little smarter by then, too.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

All the assignments you've been procrastinating about come due. The good news is that finishing them makes you take off like a rocket and you can maintain that trajectory. You're being powered not only by your own energy, but also by another person.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're very popular and getting even more so. Make time by rearranging your business schedule to support your social life, but that may not be possible. If you're having too much fun, you could provoke jealousies. Take care of

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Pay attention to details, just in case an older person forgets one. You'll look good if you can offer suggestions that work. Help a friend make a decision by offering your experience. No need for the others to learn everything the hard way.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18)

The farther away you look the more likely you are to find what you're seeking. An older person calls you up short by making you prove what you've postulated. No problem, especially if you can put that conversation off until later.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your focus is shifting to planning your future. It'll be quite noticeable. Confer with your mate those days to make sure you're headed in the same direction. If you don't have a mate, get a partner.

#### Soap Box

AMC

Mike and Jack have proof that Palmer is an art thief and they are on his tail. Dixie wants to save Palmer but Tad tells her he is a waste.

Palmer then walks in and clocks Tad. Dixie revives him and they decide they still have a chance. Opal crashes in and tells them she heard Palmer's car just went off a bridge.

#### AS THE WORLD TURNS

David helps deliver Lily's baby girl and then won't let her hold the baby. He tells Lily he's keeping the baby as his own. He finally passes her a hungry infant — the man has heart.

Molly appears on "Patterns" professing her love for David while he's watching. Lily and the babe escape with Julia's help and he blows a gasket.

#### ANOTHER WORLD

Marley wants Jake to keep that love letter a secret. Marley vows to get back at Vicky, who tells Jake she isn't pregnant then hears him chatting with Marley.

Amanda goes to Cameron and Josie about their romp in the sheets. Cindy confesses to Gary about that evidence she hid in a stuffed dog that is now in Italy with Kirk. Woof!

#### THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Amber tells CJ she is marrying Rick. He's concerned her child is not Rick's. Amber swears she has this instinct the child is not Raymonds.

Later, she dreams Brooke looks at her grandchild and knows it is not Ricks. Brooke goes to see a dying Grant. He wants Macy and Thorne to be together and tells Brooke to go gentle on Amber.

#### DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Bo freaks when he hears it was actually Greta and not Hope in that explosion. After the explosion, Greta met Stefano. Hope remembers being in the same cage Greta was in and is confused.

Roman tells Kate the Salem police will charge Lucas with kidnapping. Abe then takes Sami in for Franco's murder - a busy day for the Salem

#### GENERAL HOSPITAL

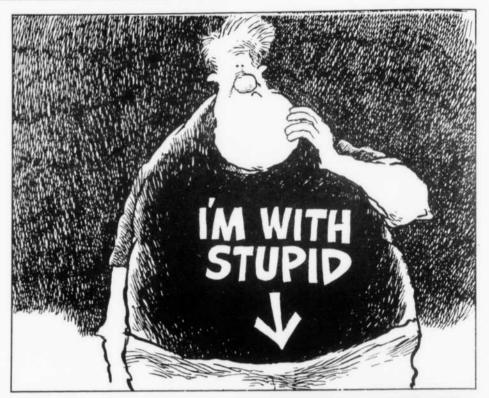
Katherine is searching for Laura's secret. Lucky plucked his guitar strings for Liz and their lips locked for the first time this week. Sigh!

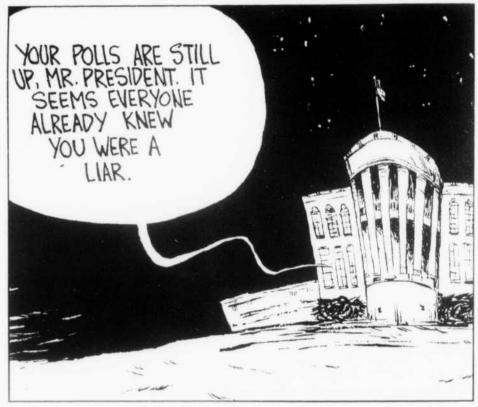
A desperate Jax plunges from a chopper to save Brenda, but the Coast Guard shows to tell him there was no way she survived. Jax, in stunning scenes, is haunted by her memory and burns her test results without reading them.

#### **GUIDING LIGHT**

Jesse finally tells Buzz about his cash flow problems. Vanessa discovers Cassie is preggars. Ben and Philip almost get steamy as they go their separate ways.

Blake's doctor tells her to face the truth or she may never walk again.





She listens and tells Ross about Ben. Ben plans to become a missing person with a travel companion.

#### ONE LIFE TO LIVE

Jessica begs Will to keep a lid on their secret and Lindsay's got some wacko plans for Nora. Todd puts the brakes on Max's blackmail scheming and Christian's work scores big at the art gallery.

The cool artist declares his love for Jessica and they coo at each other while Roseanne stews. Dorian has RJ tailing Kevin, who's been conned by Barbara to come to the docks.

#### PORT CHARLES

Victor's testimony pins Grace's murder on Julie. On cross examination, Lee makes Victor appear mentally disturbed. Frank and Lucy team up to find Eve, but later they discover Kevin is missing too, so they hop an airbus to find him.

That airbus gets in trouble and is going down. They land safely, but the plane is abducted by armed smugglers

who cuff Lucy and Scott to a bedpost at some remote cabin.

#### SUNSET BEACH

Olivia is rattled by seeing Francesca exiting Cole's bedroom draped in a towel. Francesca pretends Olivia ruined a moment, but Olivia thinks it's a set-up.

Cole thinks it's cool that Olivia trusts him. Cole tries to dump Francesca, but she says it isn't over. She knows all about him and Olivia. She will use that info if he doesn't help

#### YOUNG & THE RESTLESS

Leanna discovers Victor is upset over Dianne's guest slot on her show. She says he can appear as well, but he tells Leanna he now owns her production company and she is

Diane and Michael are horrified over this. Chris checks Jill's legal papers and tells Kay that this is legal. Kay is totally losing it and Paul wants to toss Jill out.

#### Club List

BAR NASHVILLE 114 2nd Ave. South Nashville 248-4011

**BIG RIVER GRILLE** 111 Broadway Nashville 251-4677

BLUEBIRD CAFE 4104 Hillsboro Rd Nashville 383-1461

**BONGO JAVA** 2007 Belmont Blvd Nashville 385-0575

THE BORD 1211 Greenland Dr. Murfreesboro 895-4800

**BOURBAN ST. BLUES** 220 Printers Alley Nashville 24-BLUFS

**BUNGANUT PIG** 1143 Columbia Ave Franklin 794-4777

BUNGANUT PIG 1602 W. Northfield Murfreesboro 893-7860

CAFE COCO 210 Louise Ave Nashville 329-0024

THE CANNERY 1 Cannery Row Nashville 251-0979

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WILDHOURSE SALOON 120 2nd Ave. N Nashville 251-1000

ZANIES 2025 8th Ave. S. Nashville 269-0221

#### **BAR NASHVILLE**

114 2nd Avenue South (615)248-4011

The wait will be over beginning Friday, Sept. 25 when Bar Nashville opens its doors to the public for the first time.

Yes folks, that means Bar Nashville will be celebrating its grand opening as the newest establishment to hit trendy downtown Nashville.

Stop by to check out what specials will be kicking, also Bar Nashville serves more than drinks, they have food too.

#### **Upcoming Shows**

Wednesday, Sept. 23 Ronnie McCoury Station Inn 8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24 **Hugh Prestwood** Bluebird Cafe 8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24 Red Wine Station Inn

Sept. 24-27 Tim Wilson Zanies

Friday, Sept. 25 Shania Twain Nashville Arena

Saturday, Sept. 26 Steel Horse Stampede

Steppenwolf/John Kay Bad Company Survivor

Friday, Sept. 25 Harry Fontana 12th & Porter

The Diner Junkies Riverfront Park 5 p.m.

Starwood 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28 Ani Difranco

The Ryman 8 p.m Tuesday, Sept. 29 Aerosmith

Saturday, Sept. 26

The Jackson Gang

Sunday, Sept. 27

Station Inn

Matchbox 20

Starwood 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29 Keb' Mo' Band The Ryman 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 30 Lenny Kravitz The Ryman

Wednesday, Sept. 30 Lori Mecham Owl's Nest

Wednesday, Sept. 30 Employee Showcase Wildhorse Saloon

Friday, Oct. 2 Beatledays '98

I-24 Expo Center

Friday, Oct. 2

Candlebox 328 Performance Hall Saturday, Oct. 3 Beatledays '98 1-24 Expo Center

Saturday, Oct. 3 Alabama Starwood 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4 Beatledays '98 I-24 Expo Center

Sunday, Oct. 25 MXPX Exit/In 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 12, Kings X Exit/In 8 p.m

Sunday, Nov. 15 Marcy Playground Exit/In 7 p.m.

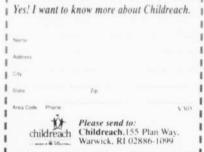
#### STEEL HORSE STAMPEDE Riverfront Park September 24-26

Tennessee's largest motorcycle rally and music festival will feature thousands of steel horses and 17 bands. Aside from chrome bikes and rock'n'roll, the event will also feature Playboy Playmate Malysa Wyse and Miss Easy Rider 1998 Lori Kutter.

Saturday nights concert will feature Steppenwolf, Survivor, Brian Howe of Bad Company and Music City's own The Diner

Junkies. The show gets under way at 5 p.m.

Friday will be the unvailing of the new Super-X bike by Excelsior-Henderson at the Wildhorse Saloon, 120 2nd. Ave. N., at 4 p.m. For more information or tickets call: (615)777-0045, (888)276-9304 or Ticketmaster (615)255-9600.



## THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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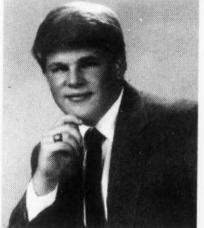
GET A MAMMOGRAM. EARLY DETECTION IS THE BEST PROTECTION.

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Jason J. Ashby Killed by a drunk driver on August 17, 1995 on Route 5 in Great Mills, Maryland.











# COMING THIS FALL

bands, entertainment, features and issues of social concern that affect college students. Providing a cutting edge forum for ideas and affairs that don't seem to have space in other college publications is what Marin is all about.

WHERE WEEKENDS BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY